(d) whether it is also a fact that NCERT is giving step motherly treatment to Urdu language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJI BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) As reported by NCERT all text books in English based on new syllabus have been released for classes I to XI and upto the 3rd semester for class XII. The translated version in Hindi for all classes would be made available by the time the schools reopen after the vacation.

As per the current practice the translation of text books in Urdu is to be done by National Council for Promotion for Urdu Language (NCPUL). The modalities for getting the new books translated in Urdu are being worked out on priority basis.

Welfare of Divorcees

5190. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have launched any special scheme for the welfare of divorcees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has launched a number of Schemes such as Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), Swawlamban (NORAD), Swayam Sidha, Swa-shakti, Socio-Economic Programme and various vocational training programmes to provide sustainable income generation opportunities for poor and needy women. Besides the above, various programmes for advocacy, awareness generation, legal literacy and support services are already under implementation. Hence, it is not considered expedient to launch any special scheme for divorcees.

Encouragement for pure Science

5191. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pure Science is losing popularity among students

as a subject of higher education as opined by Prof. C.N.R. Rao in a recent newspaper article;

(b) if so, the main reasons for it; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated to encourage youth to take to Pure Science?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJI BHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), there has been a slight decline in enrolment in Science subjects at undergraduate level. This is due to the fact that unlike in the past, now there are several options available for the youth to select courses from amongst job oriented professional and I.T. degree courses. However, the data available with UGC shows slight increase in students enrolment in postgraduate courses in various subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology. The UGC is promoting higher education/research in pure science by providing assistance to university departments/colleges under various schemes like Special Assistance Programme/Strengthening of Infrastructure in Science and Engineering/Technology, etc. Teachers are encouraged to undertake projects (Major/Minor) in different areas. The UGC has initiated a scheme of National Lecturer as per which toppers in science subjects are eligible for lecturership.

Less funds for basic education

5192. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the allocation of less funds for basic education is one of the main obstacle to bridge the huge gap in the next decade;

(b) if so, details of the allocation made and expenditure incurred during the last three financial years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rich-poor gap among the students at the primary and elementary school levels has also widened; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) During the Ninth Plan Period, Rs. 14,523 crores have been spent on basic education. An allocation of Rs. 28,750 crores has been provided for the Tenth Five Year Plan for basic